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COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
February 22, 2006  
Confirmation Hearing

The Committee on Health and Human Services met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Jim Jensen, Chairperson; Dennis Byars, Vice Chairperson; and Joel Johnson. Senators absent: Doug Cunningham; Philip Erdman; Gwen Howard; and Arnie Stuthman.

SENATOR JENSEN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Health and Human Services Committee. We are here today to review some gubernatorial appointments. The process, of course, is if you would come forth to the table, give us your name, also tell us a little about yourself, whether this is a first-time appointment or a reconfirmation. And I'll introduce you now to the senators that are here, and others will be coming in a little later. To my right is Senator Dennis Byars who is from Beatrice and is Vice Chairman of the Committee. To my right is Jeff Santema; he's committee counsel. I'm Jim Jensen from Omaha, serving as Chairman. To my left is Joan Warner who is the committee clerk. And next to her is Joel Johnson from Kearney. With that, we are ready to hear the first appointment, and we will take these in the order that they were presented, with the exception of Roger Reamer, and he will go last.

Confirmation Hearing  
James Devaney  
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

SENATOR JENSEN: So with that, James Devaney, Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, if you would want to come forward, please. Welcome.

JAMES DEVANEY (via interpreter): Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is James Devaney, and I'm (inaudible) senators. I'm from Omaha, Nebraska. I was born, and became an orphan at a young age, and moved to the St. James Orphanage in Omaha. I grew up there until the orphanage noticed that I was deaf and sent me to the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha where I went to school the entire time and graduated. At that time, no one ever really knew how I

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became deaf. My job was always at the Nebraska School for the Deaf. I worked there for 28 years. At the beginning, I worked with small children in elementary school. Moved up to the junior high school level and the high school level. Finally, I was the dean of boys for 13 years. And I worked there until the school closed in 1999. Then the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offered for me to serve on their board of directors for a year and a half, and I was very excited about doing that. And I have been on the board for one and a half years. We meet four times a year. And this is my second appointment to the commission, and I would like to thank all the senators for allowing me to be here and to be reappointed. Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. We appreciate the service that you've done throughout the years here in Nebraska. Are there any questions from any of the committee members?

SENATOR JOHNSON: I just have one. Does he have a relative that knows how to coach football? (Laughter)

JAMES DEVANEY: I wish he was my father but he's not. (Laughter) We're no relation.

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions? Well, thank you so much for appearing, and we do appreciate the work you're doing.

JAMES DEVANEY: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: And thank you for interpreting.

Confirmation Hearing  
Daryl Wills  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we have Dr. Daryl Wills, State Board of Health. And Senator Smith is here to tell...

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Health Committee. For the record, my name is Adrian Smith, representing the 48th District, here sitting in today for Dr. Daryl Wills for appointment to the Board of Health.

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Dr. Wills actually is a good friend, a longtime chiropractor, physician, and very capable. He has served in the national associations as president, and also most recently recognized as Chiropractor of the Year by the American Chiropractic Association. In the letter that I've submitted here you can see even more service that he's done for the community and for his profession, and I would certainly urge a favorable vote on his appointment in confirmation. And I would take any questions.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Smith. Any questions from the Committee in regards to Dr. Wills? Yes, Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: It is an interesting note, I notice he is also a mortician.

SENATOR SMITH: That's right.

SENATOR BYARS: That's very interesting. (Laughter)  
Shame, Jim.

SENATOR SMITH: He left that profession. I don't believe he practices that and hasn't for quite some time.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions? Thank you, Senator, for appearing.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

Confirmation Hearing  
Nancy Oltman  
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we have Nancy Oltman, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Senator Burling.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Senator Jensen, members of the committee. I'm Carroll Burling, that's B-u-r-l-i-n-g. I represent District 33 of the Nebraska Legislature, and I'm here today to appear for my constituent for reappointment,

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Nancy Oltman. And she has asked me to read this letter to you folks into the record. And so if that's all right, Mr. Chairman, I'll proceed.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BURLING: Dear members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for my reappointment to the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. It is important to me as a blind person to serve other blind people in their endeavors to become a fully participating citizen in Nebraska. The past three years of being a member of the board have been very enlightening to me personally. The commission has accomplished much during this brief time of being in existence, but much more needs to be done. If blind people expect to be in the work force and be a part of the growing economics of Nebraska, they need the training that the commission can afford them. Our state can be proud that we have one of the best rehabilitation centers in the country, and with continued diligence on the part of the employees at the commission, and the understanding and encouragement of Governor Heineman and our state Legislature, we will continue to produce more and more blind people at work and off government assistance. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I will pledge again my continued dedication to the Commission for the Blind. Nancy Oltman. And I might add that I would encourage the committee's confirmation of her appointment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator. Any questions of Senator Burling? Yes, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Burling, for information, has she been blind all of her life or did she acquire that at a later date?

SENATOR BURLING: I'm sorry, I can't answer that.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions? Thank you, Senator Burling, for coming down.

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SENATOR BURLING: Thank you.

Confirmation Hearing  
Pamela List  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we'll take Pamela List, and Senator Connealy is here.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Senator Jensen, and members of the committee. I'm Matt Connealy. I represent the 16th District, and I represent Cuming County where Pam List lives. I am encouraging you to reappoint Pam List to the State Board of Health. As you can see from the letter that she sent in, she is expanding her practice and her work. I've been very impressed with her work, especially in rural health. She was disappointed that her practice wouldn't allow her to get off today to come in, and I would encourage you to reappoint Pam List to the State Board of Health.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Any questions for the Senator of Pam List? I am acquainted with her and she does do a good job. Happy to have her back.

Confirmation Hearing  
Kenya Taylor  
Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

SENATOR JENSEN: Next, Senator Johnson is here to...which one did we have there?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Kenya Taylor.

SENATOR JENSEN: Very good. Yes, that's right. Kenya Taylor. Thank you.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Jensen, members of the committee, I'm Senator Joel Johnson, representing the 37th District, and today I appear in behalf of Kenya Taylor. Dr. Taylor is out of state and actually doing examinations of programs in other states. Dr. Taylor is a professor and chair of the Department of Communications Disorders at the University of

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Nebraska at Kearney, and has been in Nebraska since 1996. She has completed one term and now seeks a second term. Dr. Taylor is an audiologist with two areas of focus: rehabilitation strategies for the hearing impaired, and prevention of noise-induced hearing loss. I believe that Dr. Taylor has served the Commission well and looks forward to being reappointed. And I would urge that being the case.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any questions from the committee regarding Kenya Taylor? Seeing none, thank you for coming forward.

Confirmation Hearing  
Darrell Walla

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

SENATOR JENSEN: Let's take Darrell Walla, Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Senator Brashear's aide is here to give us information on Darrell. Welcome, Jim.

JIM PIEPER: Thank you. Senator Jensen, members of the Health and Human Services Committee, I'm Jim Pieper, that's P-i-e-p-e-r. I'm counsel to the Speaker, appearing this afternoon on behalf of Senator Brashear, representing District 4 in Omaha, appearing on behalf of the confirmation of Darrell Walla to the board of commissioners of the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Mr. Walla is from Omaha and resides in District 4. Mr. Walla was appointed by Governor Heineman in December to be a member of the board of commissioners for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. He is a special education teacher and has been in that profession for 26 years. He is currently employed at Omaha Burke High School; previously was at Bishop Neumann Catholic High School in Wahoo; prior to that, Raymond Central High School; and prior to that, Aurora High School in Aurora, Nebraska. So a great deal of experience in Nebraska schools in various places of the state for Mr. Walla. He is currently an active member of the National Federation of the Blind, Omaha Chapter; also involved in other community activities. He wanted to inform the committee that it is an honor for him to give back to the people of the state, the visually impaired people of the state by serving on this board, and requests the committee

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look favorably upon his appointment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Pieper. Any questions of Jim? Yes, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Is Darrell Walla visually impaired also, or not?

JIM PIEPER: That is my understanding, yes. I don't have any details beyond that. But he is a member of the National Federation of the Blind and has worked with the commission in the past.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: And the reason I mention that is because, you know, I look at their signature and it seems like that would be an indication that he is one with the disability also. Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Jim, for coming.

JIM PIEPER: Thank you.

Confirmation Hearing  
Russell Hopp  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we have Dr. Russell Hopp, and Senator Brown's L.A. is here to give us that confirmation.

SCOTT DOLTON: Good afternoon, Senator Jensen, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Scott Dolton. I'm appearing on behalf of Senator Pam Brown from District 6 up in Omaha who is appearing on behalf of Dr. Russell Hopp, professor of pediatrics and medicine at Creighton University. Dr. Hopp wishes to convey the honor and privilege to be selected as the osteopathic physician representative to the State Board of Health of the state of Nebraska. Dr. Hopp is currently serving as the osteopathic representative on the board. His medical background is extensive. He is, as I mentioned, professor of pediatrics and medicine at Creighton University, as well as a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He is a board certified

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pediatrician and a board certified allergy clinical immunologist, as well as a fellow at the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Clinical Immunology. He has over 20 years of experience specializing in allergy and immunology practice, including clinics at Creighton University, Children's Hospital, UNMC, and several weekly or monthly clinics and communities in the Omaha metropolitan area. Rather than read the entire thing, I can submit this for you, if you like.

SENATOR JENSEN: No, that will be fine. Thank you, Scott. Any questions from the committee? Thank you for your appearance.

SCOTT DOLTON: Thanks so much.

Confirmation Hearing  
Roger Reamer  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: And Senator Stuhr just came in, and so we will hear from her about Roger Reamer to the State Board of Health.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Senator Jensen, and members of the committee. I would like to...this is a statement from Roger Reamer: I would like to apologize for not being able to attend the confirmation hearing today due to a prior engagement. Thanks, Senator Stuhr, for reading my statement of intent. My name is Roger Reamer. I am the chief executive officer for Memorial Health Care Systems in Seward, Nebraska. My role with Memorial Health Care Systems also includes being the administrator for Memorial Hospital. I will be completing my sixth year of employment this May. I have a master's in business administration from Webster University, St. Louis, and my undergraduate degree is in agriculture from North Dakota State University. I obtained my master's degree in 1995, and my undergraduate degree in 1985. I have been a resident of Nebraska for the past ten years. I currently reside in Legislative District 24. I had been involved with hospital administration in the communities of David City and Ainsworth prior to coming to Seward. I have been involved with healthcare issues both



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the at local and national levels. At the state level, I am currently the immediate past president of the board of directors for the Nebraska Hospital Association. Prior to that role, I had been on the board of directors since 1997. On the national level, I have been involved with various American Hospital Association efforts which coincide with the state-level initiatives. Over the past eight years, I have been president for the Rural Comprehensive Care Network of Nebraska. This is a network of 14 critical access hospitals and 60-plus rural family physicians who work collaboratively to develop services that support the local communities, hospitals, and physician clinics in southeast Nebraska. There is a continuous change associated with both healthcare and public health. There will continue to be challenges associated with both. I'm excited about being a part of the team that will have a role in public health and welfare. I will use all that I have learned through my other professional activities to contribute to my activities on the board for the next five years. My fellow board members and the staff of the Health and Human Services Agency have been very helpful in getting me acquainted with the responsibilities and roles associated with this position. I am grateful for their help in getting me involved. I look forward to working with these individuals and serving the residents of Nebraska over the next five years. And I just might add that I do know Mr. Reamer, and he is a very competent, caring individual, and I know that he would serve as an excellent member of this committee...of this board.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Any comments that any committee members might have on Roger Reamer? Thank you, Senator, for coming forward.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

Confirmation Hearing  
Janet Coleman  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we'll take Janet Coleman. Senator Raikes is here to speak on her behalf. Welcome.

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SENATOR RAIKES: Chairman Jensen, members of the Health and Human Services Committee, Ron Raikes, District 25, here to present information on behalf of Janet Coleman. I am...in all my eight years, I think I've been denied the opportunity to be before this committee. You know, it takes this sort of a circumstance but I'm happy for it. The situation is this. I received a letter from Janet Coleman: I have recently been appointed by the Governor as a public member of the Board of Health. Senator Jensen has notified me of a confirmation hearing on February 22. I have a previous commitment on that date. I am unable to change it. I have attached a statement of my qualifications, which I understand that you'll read at the February 22 hearing. I'm looking forward to my service on the Board of Health. Janet Coleman. And I would be willing to cheat, in case you're interested, if you want just a copy of this rather than me reading it. But I will read it if that's what you prefer. It's not too long.

SENATOR JENSEN: All right.

SENATOR RAIKES: She writes: My name is Janet Coleman. I've been appointed by the Governor as a public member of the State Board of Health. This is a position that is important to me and for which I believe I have good qualifications. At both the state and local levels, I've served in a variety of positions having to do with health policy and programs. My first service was as a member of the board of trustees at Lincoln General Hospital. I served on the board for nine years, and I served two years as chair. At the present time, I'm chair of the Community Health Endowment of Lincoln. At the state level, I have been a public member of many task forces, and have sometimes been the chair. Among those on which I've served are task forces on discipline of health professionals, concerns about substance abuse of health professionals, mandatory reporting of health professionals, and the Commission on Human Genetic Technology. I chaired the task force that developed the legislation for the licensing of mental health professionals. After the legislation was enacted, I served on the Board of Mental Health Practice and I was chair for five years. Since the legislation was enacted, I've served on the Nebraska Credentialing Reform Steering Committee, and now on the Implementation Committee. All of these

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experiences have provided me with a vast amount of knowledge about the health professional in the Nebraska. This knowledge has given me a good understanding of the protection of the public as the reasons for licensing and regulating of health professionals. All of this will, I think, help me to be an active member of the State Board of Health.

SENATOR JENSEN: Very good. Are there any questions of Senator Raikes in regards to Janet Coleman? Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Raikes, I can't pass up the opportunity. (Laughter)

SENATOR RAIKES: I was afraid.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Were you familiar with Jan while she was a teacher in Lincoln Public Schools?

SENATOR RAIKES: I wasn't.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: And she's a retired teaching right now?

SENATOR RAIKES: You know, I'm not sure that I have met Janet.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Oh. Okay. I was just...you know, and I really value the people that have been in the education field and utilizing their expertise and continue to, you know, avail themselves of serving on boards in that capacity, and I really...

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, in her case, in addition to being a teacher, it sounds as though--and I'm sure it's true--that she was very active in a number of health-related committees and task forces and so on.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: You know, I think she's a very qualified individual. Thank you.

SENATOR RAIKES: So you would vote to confirm her but not me? (Laughter)

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SENATOR STUTHMAN: Very likely. (Laughter)

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions of Senator Raikes? We thank you for coming.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

Confirmation Hearing  
Linda Heiden  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: With that, Senator Schrock, we are ready to hear about Linda Heiden to the State Board of Health.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Chairman Jensen, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Ed Schrock. I represent the 38th Legislative District, and I am Linda Heiden's senator, and I'm here representing her. She's a lifelong resident of Phelps County, has been nominated for reappointment as a public member of the Nebraska State Board of Health. She has served as a board member for almost seven years after being appointed in 2002 by Governor Johanns to replace current member Senator Connie Day. Now that doesn't make sense--2002 and 2006 is not seven years. Maybe we've got something wrong there. Linda graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in science and home economics. She presently owns and operates Junkin Insurance Agency in Bertrand, and also manages the family farm. It is my understanding that she's also very interested in the Two Rivers health board, which represents the health board in our area, and the two rivers being the Republican and Platte, very famous rivers. And I would recommend you reappoint Linda Heiden. I cannot place her. And I'll bet if I could see her I'd know her. I did call her up, found out a few things about her. My staff does know her. If you have any questions, why I'd be glad to try to answer them. In the conversation with her, we have a lot of people we know in common, but I just can't place her. And maybe if I...

SENATOR JENSEN: We have a lot of faith and trust in your staff, Senator. (Laughter)

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SENATOR SCHROCK: All right. Well, that's...some would question your judgment, Senator Jensen. (Laughter)

SENATOR JENSEN: Any questions of Senator Schrock in regards to Linda Heiden? We thank you for coming today.

SENATOR SCHROCK: All right.

Confirmation Hearing  
Robert Sandstrom  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: Next we have Robert Sandstrom to the State Board of Health. Welcome.

ROBERT SANDSTROM: Thank you, Senator Jensen, and Senators. It's nice to be back again. I'm here for a reappointment. I was appointed by Governor Johanns the last time as the physical therapist member of the board, and Governor Heineman has honored me again by reappointing me for a second term. And I currently serve as secretary of the board. Just a couple of comments, I thought. I've learned a lot in the five years that I've served on the Board of Health. I had some ideas of what it was about when I joined but I've certainly learned many things since then then, and one of the things I've certainly learned is how important the State Board of Health is toward professional regulation and public protection in Nebraska, and its relationship to the Department of Regulation and Licensure and to the professions. And I just think...I want to say overall how impressed I've been with professional regulation in this state, the procedures, the policies, probably the foresight of the Legislatures and the Governors beforehand that set up the system. I've learned a lot, and I have a lot of confidence in it, based on my experience. I also just wanted to also point out how I think we all need to recognize the hard work of the people in the department, how impressed I've been, in general, with the staff in the Department of Regulation and Licensure, and the staff that board has worked with, and the boards that I...professional boards that I interact with, how the staff that work with them. And one of things is how stable the staff has been. I've been there five years and I can't think of one staff

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member that works with professional boards in the department who has left, or any turnover. There's Dr. Raymond, of course, in the Policy Cabinet. He moved up to the federal government, or moved over. And then Dick Nelson moved over to the services side, Regulation and Licensure. And the day-to-day activity of the boards, I think there's a very strong system. The last thing I just--because I have the microphone, I guess--I'll just say is, I...just the importance of the public members. And if there's anything...I've been on some committees in some regulation in the last five years, has been building different models for regulation in the state and maybe more efficient models. But one of the mechanisms and important things to remember, I think, both for our board and the other professional boards, is the absolute importance of the public member as sitting in on these processes. Their voice and vote, their understanding of decisions being made regarding public protection, that they are in the process...and that's something the board system allows. And I've been impressed with the public members that we've had to interview and appoint to boards, and I'm on the Respiratory Care Prep right now and there's three very strong public members on that board. And I just think, this is probably the last time I'll be in front of you, this committee or any committee, so I just wanted to make sure that you hear that. I think that's very important. Last thing, and then I'll be quiet and answer any questions, is that last time I was here, I talked with you...I'm an associate professor and now chairman of the Department of Physical Therapy at Creighton, so I'm not really a practicing physical therapist. But one thing we...I know I talked about last time, I remember--you won't remember, you've had so many things, but I remember, of course--is our work with Indian health and Native Americans. And we've continued this work in Thurston County. We have a 10-year relationship now with them. And actually tomorrow--I bring it up because it was on my mind driving down here today--tomorrow I'm going to Winnebago because we have a faculty member who is a...we provide a contract to the Indian health service to provide clinical services at the public health service hospital there, and I'm meeting with her to talk about her activity for the last year. But on her report I noticed two state grants, two small grants: one a \$6,000 grant from Health and Human Services, another about a \$9,000 grant to the Winnebago

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Trial Health Department, specifically looking at diabetes and looking at specific public health problems in that population. And I'll know more about it tomorrow when I meet with her, but I just wanted to thank you because that's important funding and those programs are being...she is involved in that program and those are important programs for that population, so I'll stop there.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Dr. Sandstrom. Any questions? Yes, Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I think Mr. Sandstrom's qualifications speak for themselves, but I'm just trying to make myself more knowledgeable. Tell me what hemiplegia is.

ROBERT SANDSTROM: Oh, that's just weakness on one side of the body, typically after a brain injury or something with stroke. Yeah. Yeah.

SENATOR BYARS: Yeah, I noticed that you were an expert in this, and so I've never heard of hemiplegia before. Now that makes me an expert, also, right? (Laughter)

ROBERT SANDSTROM: I appreciate your interest, Senator Byars. (Laughter)

SENATOR JENSEN: Any other questions from the committee? Thank you for coming forward today.

ROBERT SANDSTROM: Yeah. Thanks.

Confirmation Hearing  
Leslie Spry  
State Board of Health

SENATOR JENSEN: And last, Dr. Leslie Spry to the State Board of Health. Welcome, Doctor.

LESLIE SPRY: Thank you. Senators and guests, thank you for inviting me. This is my reappointment to the Board of Health. My name is Leslie Spry, S-p-r-y. I'm a farm kid from Oconto, Nebraska, that grew up to be a kidney guy here in Lincoln. And I've been on the State Board of Health...I

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was appointed by Governor Johanns in 2000, and I was reappointed by Governor Heineman last fall. And I appreciate their confidence. I would echo what Dr. Sandstrom just said, and that is, is that I have been particularly impressed on the volunteerism that we see on the various boards from the public members. I can't tell you the number of times that there have been disagreements on boards that I've served on and seen service where it's been disagreements among the professionals, but once those professionals can explain what their positions are to the public members, frequently that's how situations get resolved. That's been my experience. And so I would again echo what he just said, and that is, is the public members are an extremely important part of the boards and the various committees that I've served on in conjunction with the State Board of Health. My observations about the State Board of Health, as you know, when I first came on to the State Board of Health there was a bill, I think, to abolish it. And I was, initially at least, thinking about that. I see some things that I would like to change but I do see the wisdom in the State Board of Health now, and I also see that over the five years that I've served on the Board there have been an increase in the volunteerism and the number of applications to serve and sit on licensing boards and committees for the state. We get to interview all of those individuals, and I am particularly impressed and I've learned a lot over the last five years on just how this place works. I think that's been my greatest benefit. I hope that over the last five years, I've been able to contribute as well. Over these five years I've served as the president...or, the chairman for the committee on legislation for the Nebraska Medical Association, and I'm currently chief of staff at St. Elizabeth's Hospital here in Lincoln, so I don't necessarily need to look for another job but I do enjoy my time on the State Board of Health. And I'm very appreciative of your time, and I'm appreciative of the confidence of Governor Heineman in reappointing me. And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Dr. Spry. Any questions? Yes, Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I just have another comment. In my 14 years I've served in the Legislature, I don't know of a person



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from the medical profession that has been more open and honest with me than Dr. Spry, and I appreciate your cooperation and collaboration through that period of time. You certainly might be last but you're not least.

LESLIE SPRY: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. Any other questions? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Dr. Spry, I guess just a little bit of philosophy here, as far as where the board is concerned. Obviously, I think the most important part is the protection of the public. At the same time, there is the issue of protection of the caregiver. Do you feel that we are in about the right balance, if I might coin a word for it, as far as this relationship in the state of Nebraska?

LESLIE SPRY: My observations there...when I listen to the public, the public keep asking us as professionals to be more conscientious, to be...to police our own, if you will. I mean, I hear that repeatedly. I find some frustration on the boards that I serve on sometimes, in trying to enforce some of that policing yourself, sometimes. But I must admit, as the process generally works out, I think that there has been a balance there. I am frustrated at times and I see some frustration on the part of Regulation and Licensure in being able to implement some of the...some of those common-sense things that we would like to be able to all do. I see some...sometimes I see some practitioners that I think we ought to be a little harder on, and other times I see some practitioners who deserve our help and sympathy sometimes. So I think we just have to do the best that we can. I think there has to strike a balance. In my five years, I've changed my philosophy there a little bit in that I think that initially I thought that there's probably got to be greater and harder oversight, and I continue to think that. But I must admit, as I see how the process works, I think both sides do get protected.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you. Any other questions? We thank you for your appearance. And that will conclude the

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confirmation and the gubernatorial appointments.

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Chairperson

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Committee Clerk